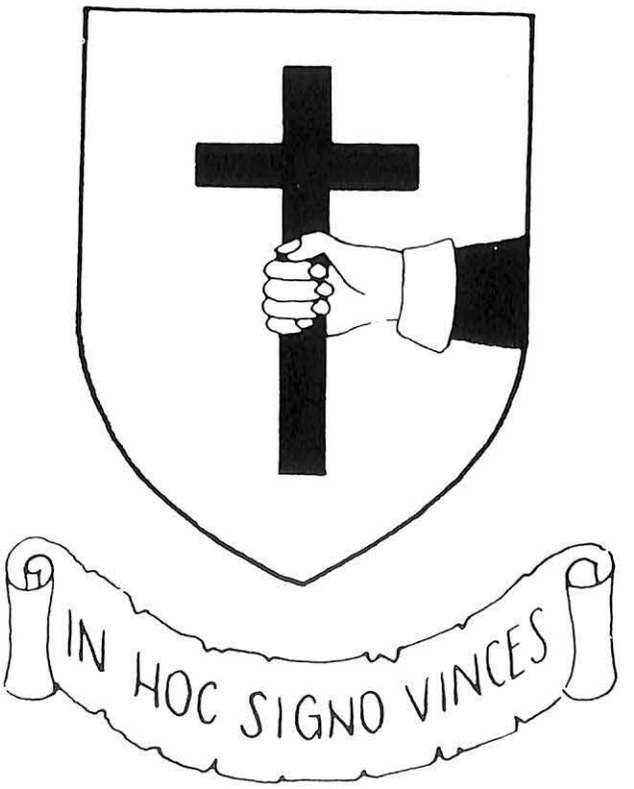
ISSN 0790-7389

Ó Domhnaill Abú



O Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 8

Winter 1987

RED HUGH'S MARCH TO KINSALE

A synoptic version of a lecture given by Capt. Joe O'Kane to the County Donegal Historical Society in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town on 29th March, 1984.

Hugh O'Donnell was at Ballymote Castle (then in his possession) when the decision was made to go to the assistance of the beleagured Spaniards in Kinsale. A proclamation was issued to his forces to assemble at Ballymote and hasty preparations were made. The way to Kinsale was long, wet and marshy with little or no roadways and heavy opposition could be expected.

They travelled light, each man carrying his own weapon and food rations (oaten bread, butter, salt etc.). Few horses or cumbersome carriages or cannons were brought.

Having celebrated the Feast of Samhain (Hallowe'en), Hugh O'Donnell reviewed his troups clan by clan and on the 2nd November, 1601 began the march south.

On leaving Ballymote, they travelled in a south-easterly direction along a road still known as 'Bothar an Iarla Ruaidh' that leads in the direction of the Curlew Hills. They passed close to Lough Key avoiding Boyle (as it may have been garrisoned) and on to Elphin, a total of 30 miles, the first day.

Next day they marched south through Roscommon and crossed the Suck without difficulty. Avoiding Athlone and Shannon Bridge, they forded the Shannon at Shannon Harbour - Athlone was fortified. Having crossed the Shannon they met their first hostilities. It came from MacCoughlan, through whose lands they were travelling. This action proved costly for MacCoughlan as the Northmen ravished, plundered, burned and destroyed most of his property.

Travelling south-east through Kinnity, they crossed over Sleive Bloom (mountains) and down through the village of Bellaghmore, reaching Drumsaileach near Templemore where they camped on the 6th or 7th of November. Here they awaited the arrival of O'Neill's forces. For three weeks they waited, during which time they ravaged and plundered the countryside around them in search of food, as armies did in those days.

The English had expected that O'Neill and O'Donnell would come to the aid of the Spaniards - on the 17th November they were sure of it when they learned of O'Donnell's position near Templemore. Next day they debated in council what action to take. Eventually, Sir George Carew with 4,000 horse and foot was sent to intercept O'Donnell. By the 21st November Carew reached Ardmoyle (north of Cashel and south of Holy Cross) and camped there. Both armies continued to spy on each other but made no attempt at an engagement. The distance separating them was 4 miles. On the 30th November, O'Donnell visited Holy Cross Abbey where he venerated a relic of the true cross and headed back to camp next day.

O'Donnell by now knew he would soon have to move as food was becoming scarce and his position becoming more precarious each day - Carew was joined by another regiment under Sir Christopher St. Laurence. Carew believed he had the only road south blocked so he was prepared to sit and wait. O'Donnell wouldn't be as fool-hardy as to make an encircular movement by going east because of the proximity of the English forces heading south.

On the night that Hugh O'Donnell visited Holy Cross the river Suir was in high spate (the whole of that November was extremely wet) but the next night hard frost set in, the like of which was never seen in Ireland before. O'Donnell took advantage of the weather conditions and set out over the Slieve Felim mountains. Slieve Felim were considered impassible in winter but with the unusual frost and the help of trusty guides it became just possible.

Before leaving camp, O'Donnell employed the age-old trick of having local people keep the fires burning all night and create the usual hustle and bustle of an occupied camp.

This ploy deceived Carew's spies and so precious time was gained for O'Donnell's troops, who travelling light as already mentioned, traversed slippery but hard

mountain paths, covering a total of 22 Irish miles (1 Irish mile = 2240 yards) of rough mountain terrain in one night. By early morning they were on the south side of Slieve Felim, close to Abbington, but still they did not rest. They marched all next day, covering another 12 Irish miles. That night they camped close to Croom.

When Carew learned that O'Donnell had departed he decided to quit camp and try to cut him off on the south side of Slieve Felim, but when Carew reached Abbington at 11 o'clock he was amazed to find that his adversary had already marched through - he was further amazed when he learned that they hadn't stopped till they reached Croom.

Carew declared that there was no way he could hope to catch up with such a fleet-footed enemy and later remarked that it was the greatest march ever recorded or even heard of. So he gave up the chase and returned to Kinsale arriving there on 6th December.

O'Donnell rested briefly at Croom where he spent the night in the Countess of Kildare's castle. He then crossed the Maigue (river) into the Barony of Connelagh where he camped for a week. Again he plundered the countryside in search of food.

Now the Fitzmaurices in this area of Kerry had lost all their castles to Carew. So when O'Donnell arrived, he and Fitzmaurice took the opportunity of attacking the Carew-held fortresses and succeeded in regaining many of them.

The march was resumed on 10th December passing through and around Slieve Luchra, through Muskerry and Dunhollow and on down the valley of the Bandon to Innishannon which they reached about the 15th December, 1601. Here the arrival of O'Neill's forces was awaited and the joint armies camped there for one day; their combined strength is said to have numbered 5,500, along with 500 Munstermen. They now moved to Belgooley and camped in a large field (which had corn just set in it) on the 16th December. This field is 3 miles North East of Kinsale.

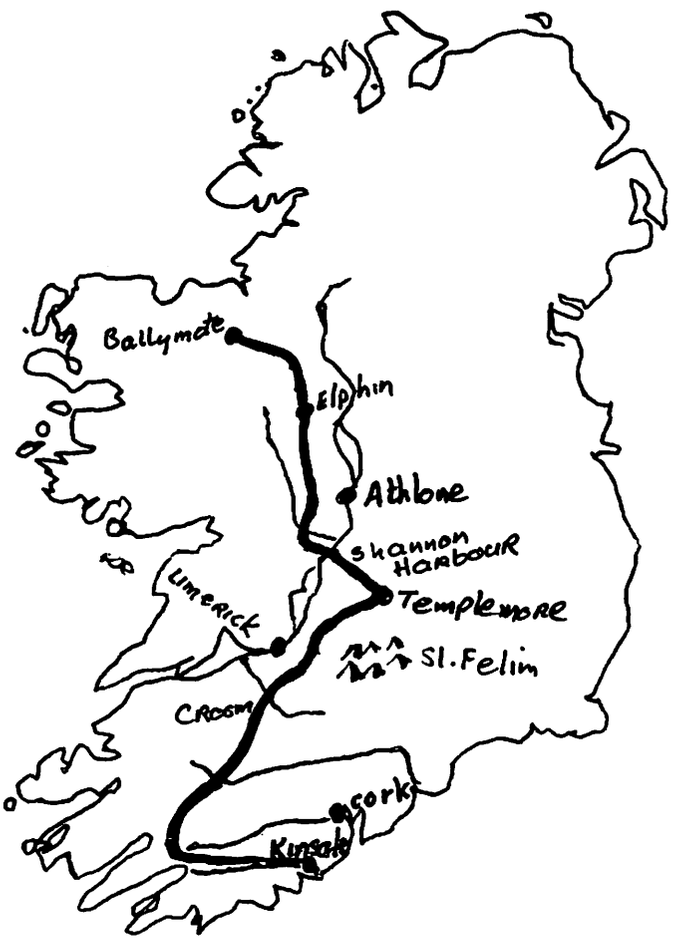
Here they remained until 31st December when at nightfall they moved to the hill of Coolcarron, bringing them in sight of the English camp. Early on the morning of 3rd January, 1602 they made their final and fateful move when they advanced into battle - a battle which ended in disaster for them and was the death of Gaelic Ireland.

NAMES FROM SOME OF THE CHIEF CLANS OF ULSTER AND CONNAUGHT WHO MARCHED TO KINSALE

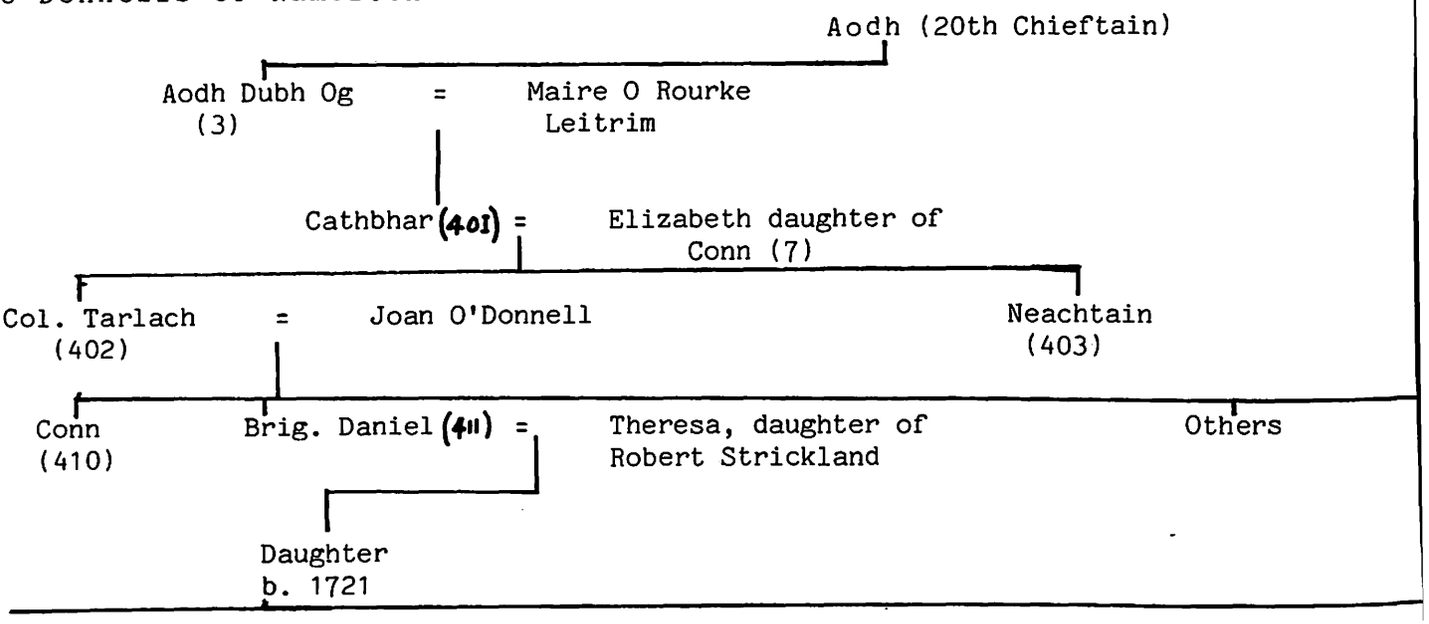
O'Rourke; Mac Sweeney of Doe; O'Doherty; O'Cahan; O'Boyle; Mac Donagh; MacDermott; O'Kelly; O'Beirne; O'Connor; Burke; O'Hara; Maguire.

FROM MUNSTER

Fitzmaurice; Fitzthomas; MacCarthy



O'Donnells of Ramelton



THE O'DONNELLS OF RAMELTON

Returning to Aodh Og Dubh (3) (see O Domhnaill Abu No. 2) who was a brother of Manus the 21st Cheiftain, we find he was married to Maire, daughter of O'Rourk, Lord of Leitrim and seems to have had two other wives as well, the last being a daughter of O'Connor, Sligo with whom he had two sons - Calvach (408) and Neachtain (409). Both are mentioned in the O'Clery Genealogies.

Calvach had a son, Aodh Bui (413), who was a Colonel in the Irish Army 1641-49. There is a poem addressed to him in the "Book of O'Donnell's Daughter" which is now in Brussels.

With his second wife, Aodh Og Dubh had four sons - Manus Og (404), Tarlach (405), (both of these are mentioned in the inquisition of 1626), Eineachan (406) and Sean (407).

With his first wife, Aodh (3) had one son Cathbharr (401) living in 1615 and married to Elizabeth, daughter of Conn (7) son of Calbhach Chief (4).

Aodh Dubh Og (or Aodh Og Dubh) died in 1618. Cathbharr (401) had two sons, Col. Tarlach (402), a leader of 1641 and Commander of the O'Donnell Regiment who fought against Cromwell, and Neachtain (403) who was wounded fighting at Glenguin, 1642.

Col. Tarlach was married to Joan, daughter of Tarlach O'Donnell of Culmhic an Trean (Castleforward) and had several sons and a daughter Mary who married Edmund O'Malley of Bedclare, Co. Mayo. The first son was Conn (410) who succeeded his father as Commander of the Regiment and was killed in action at Wexford.

The second son of Col. Tarlach was Brigadier Daniel O'Donnell (411), 1665-1738. He fought at the Boyne and later took his own Regiment with him to France where he spent his fortune bringing other O'Donnells to the Continent to replenish the Regiment.

It was Brig. O'Donnell who brought the 'Cathnach' to the Continent. On seeing the erosion of the old Gaelic System, at the hand of the Sassanach who destroyed everything Irish or Catholic, Daniel feared that the 'Cathach' would suffer the same fate as other Gaelic relics. Before his final departure, he stole the 'Cathnach' from its place of safekeeping in the little church of Ballymagroarty and brought it with him to the Continent. He deposited it in a Franciscan Monastery in Belgium with the condition that only the head of Clann Dalaigh could reclaim it (see O Domhnaill Abu No. 3 Niall Mor).

Genealogical Chart No. 7

= Unknown lady

Manus (404) | Tarlach (405) | Eighneachan (406) | Sean (407)

= Dau. of O'Connor Sligo

Calbhach (408) | Neachtain (409)

Aodh Bui (413) Co. 1641-49

Mary = Edmund O Mally Bealclare

Brig. O'Donnell married Theresa, daughter of Robert Strickland of Catterick, Yorkshire, and widow of John Stafford, controller of the King's Household at St. Germain. They had a daughter who was aged 14 in 1735. Nothing further is known of this family.

Letters, articles, subcriptions etc. should be sent to The Editor, Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel: (073) 36059.

Yearly Subscription:

Ireland and Britain £5.00.
Other Countries £6.00

Ro tuismidh ém clann aohamra úa Dhomnaill (Aódh mac Maghnusa mic Aódha óicc mic Aódha Ruaidh mic Néill Garbh mic Toirrdealbaig an fiona, &c.). An Ingean Dubh, ingin Semair mic Alaxandair mic Eoin Chathanaig mec Dhomnaill, do fiol Cholla uair mic Eachdach Domhlém, roba bantreithig úa Domnaill, & rob iside mathair an robtar aithghina dia éloinn. Ittiatt anmanna a ffhirfeal isin nuno Gine Aódh Ruaidh, Ruthraighe, Maghnus, & Cathbarr.

e opening lines of 'Beatha Aodha Ruaidh', written (in e Gaelic of the time) by Lughaidh O'Clery in 1602 and corporated in the Annals of the Four Masters, 1636, s translated to English and published by Rev. Denis rphy in 1893.

e above lines were translated thus:-

famous progeny sprung from O'Donnell, (Hugh, son of nus, son of Hugh oge, son of Hugh Roe, son of Niall rbh, son of Turlough of the wine, etc.). Ineen Dubh, ughter of James, son of Alexander, son of John thanach MacDonnell, of the race of Colla Uais, son of chaidh Doimhlen, was the wife of O'Donnell, and she was e mother of the most renowned of his children. The mes of their sons in the order of their birth were gh Roe, Rury, Manus, and Caffir.

Uniform of O'Donnell Regiment, Austrian Army (see O'D.A. No 7).

O'Donnell participants in the "Flight of the Earls"

The peace that followed the Treaty of Millifont 1603 was an uneasy one for the northern chiefs. It soon became obvious that the English had no intention of keeping their side of the bargain and that they wouldn't rest until the Irish leaders were eliminated. With the utmost secrecy, the Chieftains planned their departure. That same departure has been wrongfully called "The Flight of the Earls", for flight it was not but rather a withdrawal to a place of refuge until such time as they could return with Spanish aid, and confidence to rid Ulster of the 'Gall'. (See Newsletter No. 2).

On the 4th September, 1607 a ship put into Rathmullen Harbour under the guise of a fishing boat. Nine days later she sailed down Lough Swilly bearing with her the cream of Irish nobility, Hugh O'Neill, Chief of Tyrone; Rory O'Donnell, head of Clann Dalaigh, and Cuchonnacht Maguire, Chief of Fermanagh with their respective families, friends and followers - ninetynine in all.

"A distinguished crew, was this for one ship; for it is certain that the sea never carried, and that the winds never wafted from the Irish shores, individuals more illustrious or noble in genealogy, or more renowned for deeds of valor, prowess, and high achievements". (Annals of the Four Masters).

Here follows a list of those who travelled with Rory on that fateful voyage.

Cafair: (14) a younger brother of Rory (13). He was married to Rose Doherty (of Inishowen) and had two sons, Hugh and Conn. Conn was left behind in Ireland. Cafair died a week after his brother Rory, 15th September, 1608, at the age of 25 and was buried in the same grave.

"Tread bhocht gan aodhaire ionnn
Cafarr ceann einigh Eirionn
Fa lig, thra, ga truaighe dail,
Ata uainne san Eadail."

(Lines written by Feargal Og Mac an Bhaird lamenting Cafair's death in Italy).

Rose Doherty: born 1590, married to Cafair (14) at 14 years. She was a sister of Sir Cathaoir O Dochartaigh who rebelled and was killed in 1608. She left Rome in 1612 and returned to Flanders. After Cafair's death she married Eoghan Rua O Neill. She died in Brussels in 1660 and was buried in St. Anthony's College, Louvain. She had a pension of 80 crowns a month from the King of Spain.

Hugh (son of Rory (13)), Baron of Donegal: he was born in 1606 and was almost a year at the time of their departure. He received 100 escudos of a grant from Spain. He was adopted by Albert, Archduke of Flanders, and called Hugh Albert. Hugh was educated in Louvain. He served in Court and was known as Conde de Tyrconnell after his father's death. He was in receipt of a 100 crowns a month from the King of Spain. He was made colonel of an Irish regiment in the Spanish Army in 1632. In the same year he married Anne Margherrite de Boussu, daughter of Count de Boussu. He was drowned near Barcelona during a sea battle against the French in 1642.

Hugh (son of Cafair (14)): He was born in 1605. He was fostered at the time of departure but unlike his brother, Conn, was got on board in time. He was left in Louvain in 1608 along with his cousin Hugh (son of Rory (13)) with two Donegal women to take care of them. He was in receipt of 50 escudos a month from Spain. He joined the Spanish Service, became captain and fought at Bergh and Breda. He died in 1625 and was buried in front of the high altar in St. Anthony's College, Louvain where his mother was later buried.

Nuala (15) sister of Rory and Cafair: She deserted her husband Nial Garbh (16) in 1600 when he went over to the English. She went to Rome along with the main party but was left sad and lonely after the death of her two brothers.

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LAMENT FOR THE PRINCES OF TYRONE AND TYRCONNEL.

O woman of the piercing wail,
Who mournest o'er yon mound of clay
With sigh and groan,
Would God thou wert among the Gael!
Thou wouldst not then from day to day
Weep thus alone.
'Twere long before, around a grave
In green Tyrconnel, one could find
This loneliness;
Near where Beann-Boirche's banners wave,
Such grief as thine could ne'er have pined
Companionless.

Beside the wave, in Donegal,
In Antrim's glens, or fair Dromore,
Or Killilee,
Or where the sunny waters fall,
At Assaroe, near Erna's shore,
This could not be.
On Derry's plains—in rich Drumclieff—
Throughout Armagh the great, renowned
In olden years,
No day could pass but woman's grief
Would rain upon the burial-ground
Fresh floods of tears!

Oh no!—from Shannon, Boyne, and Suir,
From high Dunluce's castle-walls,
From Lissadill,
Would flock alike both rich and poor.
One wail would rise from Cruachan's halls
To Tara's hill;
And some would come from Barrow-side,
And many a maid would leave her home
On Leitrim's plains,
And by melodious Banna's tide,
And by the Mourne and Erne, to come
And swell thy strains!

(Mangan's beautiful transalation of Mac an Bhaird's "Lament").

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Nuala returned to Louvain in 1611. She was in receipt of 60 crowns a month from the King of Spain, it was later increased to 175. It is not known when she died but she was living in Flanders at the time of her husband's death in 1626.

Donal Og (son of Donal (10), Red Hugh's half brother): He remained in Louvain in 1608 and joined the Spanish Service. He was Captain of the O'Neill Regiment when he was killed in 1620 or 1623.

Neachtain (cousin of Rory): remained in Louvain in 1608 and joined Spanish Service.

Eamon Cruama Mac Daibheid and his wife, Aodh O Gallchoir and his wife Cecilia: These were the two women referred to above who cared for the two Hugh's (Rory's son and Cafair's son) while their husbands saw to the boys' education. The two couples remained in Louvain in 1608. Gallagher received 30 escudos a month from Spain but no mention is made of a pension to McDaid.

Sean Croin Mac Daibheid: He was born in Inishowen and was one of Doherty's followers. He travelled to Rome in 1608 and was still there in 1615. He wrote to Chichester from Rome asking for a pardon and a safe return but was unanswered. His wife Finnuala O'Doherty and family did not leave Ireland. Sean was in receipt of 45/50 crowns a month of a pension from Spain. After Rory's death he served O'Neill.

Cathaoir (mac Toimlin) O Gallachoir, Cathaoir (mac Airt) O Gallchoir, Toirleach Corrach O Gallchoir, Tuathal O Gallchoir agus Aodh Og (mac Thuathail) O Gallchoir: those five stayed in Belgium and joined the Spanish Army.

Colman: Tyrconnell's priest.

Matthew Tully: was an educated Connaught-man. He went to Spain with Red Hugh in 1602, but returned and became Rory's secretary. He went back to Spain in 1605 and was instrumental in planning the departure of the Earls. He travelled to Ireland in the ship that took them away. On arrival at Rouen it was he who travelled ahead to Paris and Flanders to announce their approach. He served in the Spanish Navy and was in Madrid in 1610.

Dennis O Brian: his grandfather was bishop of Killaloo. He himself served with Rory O'Donnell. He travelled to Spain in 1602. On his return to Ireland a few years later he was imprisoned in Athlone but escaped and went to Spain again. He sailed to Rathmullen and

travelled by night to bring the news of the ship's arrival to Rory. He went with them to Rome.

Eoghan Rua Mac an Bhaird (Ward): O'Donnell's poet. He remained in Flanders in 1608 and was in receipt of 30 escudos a month of a pension. He later went to Rome where he probably died.

Doighre O Duigeannain: An educated Roscommon man, he stayed in Flanders and was in receipt of a monthly pension of 20 escudos. He and Eoghan (above) seem to have been responsible for the education of the youths left behind there.

Donnchadh Mac Suibhne: (Son of Mac Sweeney, Bannagh). Remained in Flanders in 1608 and joined the Spanish Army, O'Neill Regiment in 1612. He later returned to Ireland.

David Crafford: A Scotsman who served as Rory's butler. He went to Rome but returned to Ireland in 1610.

Muiris, Rory's pageboy: Travelled to Rome where he died on 3rd August, 1608.

Sean MacPhilip, Aonghus Mac Dhuifithe, Uilliam O Loinsigh and Cathal O Broin: Four of Rory's attendants who remained in Flanders and joined the Spanish Service.

Gearoid O Conchur (O'Connor) and Capt. Sean O Conchur: There is nothing known of these two except that Capt. Sean was in the Spanish Army in 1603, and distinguished himself at the Siege of Ostend.

Gearald Fitzmaurice: Nothing definite is known of him.

Henry O'Kelly: Joined the Spanish Army, O'Neill Regiment.

Fr. Maurice Dunleavy: A Franciscan Priest from Donegal. He travelled to Spain with Red Hugh in 1602. He was Provincial of Irish Franciscans 1609-1612. He signed the introduction to the Annals of the Four Masters in 1636.

Fr. Florence Conry: Born 1560 a Roscommon man, he studied in Salamanca and entered the Minor Order of St. Francis. He came to Kinsale with the Spaniards in 1601, but returned with Red Hugh in 1602 and attended at his bedside during his fatal illness (see Newsletter No. 4). He was Provincial of the Franciscans 1606-1609. He established St. Anthony's College of Louvain in 1606, met the Earls at Douai and accompanied them to Rome. He was appointed Archbishop of Tuam in 1609. He spent the rest of his life between Spain and the Netherlands. His death occurred in Madrid on 18th November, 1629 and was buried in St. Anthony's, Louvain in 1654. He is well known as the author of Desiderius.

Fr. Dermot Doolin: He travelled with the Earls but remained in Flanders to further his studies.

Five students who went to Flanders to study - **Brian O Muiriosa, Niallan Mac Daibheid, Donnchadh O Cochlain, Brian O hEigeartaigh agus Conchur Og O Duibheannaigh** who was ordained to the Priesthood in 1617.

There were several more - servant boys and maids who attended Rory, Caffar, Rose O'Doherty and Nuala but their number and names are not reported.